TOPIC: RENEWAL OF COLORADO-NEW MEXICO RECIPROCITY

AGREEMENT

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This information item regards the renewal of Colorado's reciprocity agreement with New Mexico, which expires June 30, 2012. The department seeks to raise the current 400 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment cap to 500 FTE and renew the agreement for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

II. BACKGROUND

Since academic year 1981-1982, Colorado and New Mexico have had an active reciprocity agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students of both states. The agreement extends opportunities to a specific number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students from New Mexico to attend participating institutions in Colorado at the Colorado institutions' resident tuition rates. Likewise, the same number of Colorado students may attend specified New Mexico institutions at the resident rate of those institutions.

Colorado statute limits the participation of Colorado institutions based on the application of the "closest college concept." Thus, participating Colorado institutions are those closest to the New Mexico-Colorado border: Adams State College, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Fort Lewis College, Western State College, Lamar Community College, Pueblo Community College, and Trinidad State Junior College. Western State College has indicated it no longer wishes to participate and it has not enrolled any students by way of the agreement since before 2008 (see Table 1 below).

All of New Mexico's public colleges and universities participate in the agreement except for the University of New Mexico's School of Medicine and School of Law and the New Mexico Military Institute.

As the program is reciprocal, no state funds are exchanged between the two states. The FTE limit for the past several years has been 400. Table 1 below shows FTE enrollment at Colorado institutions from 2008-9 to 2010-11. Use of available FTE has increased each year.

Institution 08-09 FTE 09-10 FTE 10-11 FTE Adams State College 70.23 46.75 75.60 CSU-Pueblo 0.90 2.70 10.60 Fort Lewis College 77.40 102.00 115.93 Western State College 0 0 0 Lamar Community College 5.50 8.47 15.92 Pueblo Community College 2.95 2.50 1.77 Trinidad State Junior College 75.16 75.16 77.28 **TOTALS** 297.10 208.66 261.06

Table 1: FTE Enrollment by Institution for the Last Three Years

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Total FTE enrollment has not exceeded the current cap of 400. However, both Adams State College and Colorado State University – Pueblo have indicated an intention to more aggressively recruit New Mexico students; FTE enrollments have increased each of the past three years (Table 1). Both these factors warrant raising the available FTE to 500 for the renewal of the agreement, which will be in effect July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 if signed by both states. The last increase in FTE occurred with the most recent renewal of the agreement on July 1, 2009. The FTE was raised from 300 to its current 400.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action required. This is an information item only.

V. <u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>

23-1-112 C.R.S.: "...the commission shall identify those circumstances where the waiving of the nonresident differential in tuition rates, on a reciprocal basis with other states, would enhance educational opportunities for Colorado residents... Agreements negotiated between Colorado and other states shall provide for an equal number of resident and nonresident students to be exchanged between the states... The commission shall establish regulations for the administration of this section, based on the application of the closest college concept, and for the reporting to the general assembly of the numbers of students to whom the waivers are given."